

January 10, 2011

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCollum:

On behalf of the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, we request that you vote no on HR 2, legislation that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The Epilepsy Foundation has advocated and supported comprehensive health care reform, and we were pleased to support the ACA during the last Congress. The ACA brings changes that will make it easier for people with epilepsy to receive the medical care and treatment they need. The Epilepsy Foundation has held five core principles for health care reform as critical to people with epilepsy and their families. These include an end to pre-existing conditions exclusions and denials of coverage due to health; comprehensive coverage of routine preventive care; a limit on out-of-pocket expenses (such as deductibles and co-payments); an elimination of lifetime caps (or annual limits) on health insurance coverage; and reform that allows individuals to keep their current health insurance plans.

These five provisions would end many of the problems people with epilepsy face in obtaining coverage, and the Epilepsy Foundation supported the ACA as reform that promised to address our priorities. We believe it would be detrimental for Congress to step back from the monumental reforms. The ACA has started to address the needs of the uninsured through an end to pre-existing condition exclusions for children, coverage for adult children and interim health insurance plans for adults with pre-existing conditions. Other critical reforms are upcoming and will help end the barriers to accessible and affordable insurance for individuals and families with chronic disease and disabilities.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome the challenges created by epilepsy. Nationwide, the Epilepsy Foundation is dedicated solely to the welfare of the almost 3 million people with epilepsy in the U.S. and their families. The organization works to ensure that people with seizures are able to participate in all life experiences; to improve how people with epilepsy are perceived, accepted and valued in society; and to promote research for a cure. The Foundation's top concern is protecting access to medication, other treatment options and specialty care.

We strongly encourage you to vote against repeal of the ACA and work toward ensuring that implementation includes the needs of people with epilepsy and other chronic health conditions. I look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C. in March for the Epilepsy Foundation Kids Speak Up! and Public Policy Institute and our day on the hill on March 29th. If you or your staff wishes to discuss the Foundation's work and support for health care reform or any other issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651.287.2314 or [vkopplin@efmn.org](mailto:vkopplin@efmn.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vicki Kopplin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vicki" and last name "Kopplin" clearly distinguishable.

Vicki Kopplin  
Executive Director  
Epilepsy Foundation Minnesota